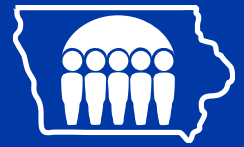


Adoption and Adoption Subsidy



Purpose

Adoption subsidy is a financial support provided to families who adopt special needs children. The funds assist families with the cost of raising a child, and costs associated with the needs of the child.

Who Is Helped

When courts terminate the parental rights of children who have been abused or neglected, the DHS strives to find permanent adoptive families as quickly as possible.

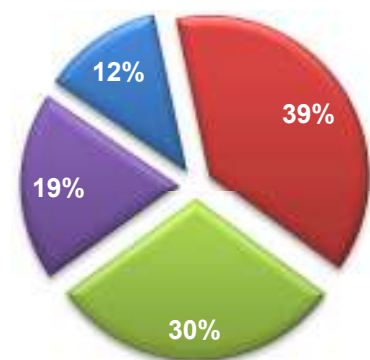
- Subsidies are paid until the child reaches age 18, or until age 21 if there is a disability.
- Subsidies are available if:
 - The child has a special need (including a diagnosed physical, mental or emotional disability), is older, is a member of a sibling group of three or more children, or is at risk of developing a diagnosed condition; and
 - The state is unable to place the child for adoption without the subsidy; and
 - The child was in the guardianship of DHS or a licensed child-placing agency prior to adoption.

The majority of children adopted through DHS are under age 6 and Caucasian.

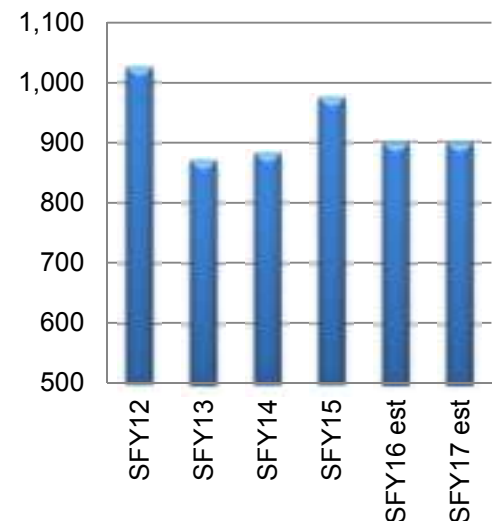
- On July 1, 2015, 10,023 children were eligible for adoption subsidy.
 - The adoptive parents of 9,546 children received an adoption subsidy payment.
 - 477 children have subsidy agreements in which no payments are currently paid but may be in the future.

Children Eligible for Subsidy in SFY15 by Age

- 0-5 (12%) ■ 6 to 11 (39%)
- 12 to 15 (30%) ■ 16 to 21 (19%)



Number of Adoptions per Year



- ✓ *The adoptive family's income cannot be considered when negotiating subsidy supports.*
- ✓ *Citizenship or qualified non-citizen status is an eligibility requirement to claim federal funds.*
- ✓ *Of all children placed for adoption through DHS, about 95 percent either receive adoption subsidy or are eligible for subsidy.*

Services

Adoption subsidy provides a monthly payment to parents of eligible children. Families may also receive:

- Up to \$500 per child to pay legal fees to finalize the adoption.
- Supplies and equipment to meet a child's needs.
- Outpatient therapy for providers not paid through Medicaid.
- Additional insurance premium costs when adding a child to private insurance.
- Up to \$500 per child when adopting a sibling group of three or more.

Families who receive adoption subsidy are eligible for post-adoption support services provided through a contract.

Subsidy rates:

- A 5 percent rate increase was appropriated for SFY14 (effective 7/1/13).
- Rate increases were not appropriated in SFY15 or SFY16.

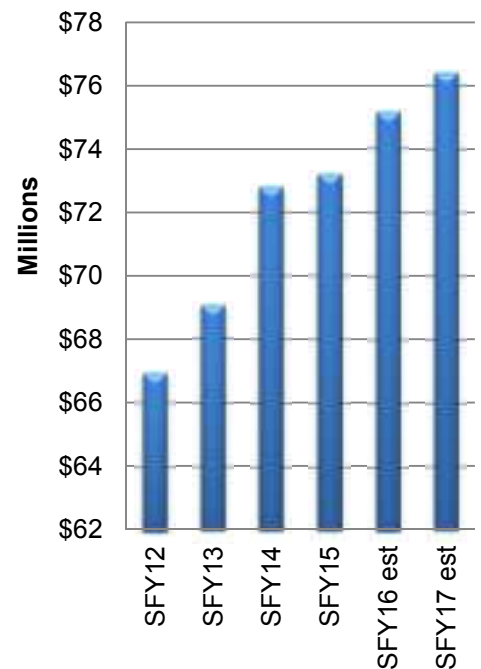
SFY15 average per diem subsidy was \$21.13.

Monthly Average Number of Children for Whom Adoption Payments Are Made*

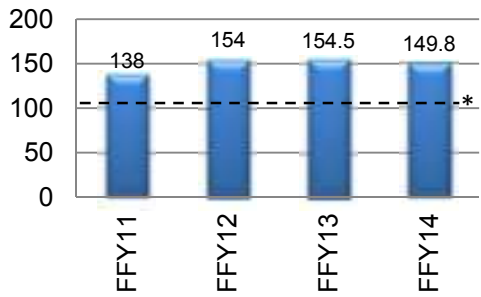


*Numbers are rising because new cases exceed the number of cases in which subsidies end.

Total Expenditures



- ✓ *Children who are eligible for adoption subsidy are categorically eligible for Medicaid.*
- ✓ *Adoption subsidy rates are negotiated with families, but the rate cannot exceed the rate the child received or would have received in foster care.*
- ✓ *Adoption subsidy rates and foster care rates are designed to be nearly the same, thus eliminating a disincentive by foster parents to adopt.*

Goals & Strategies	<p>Goal: Children in foster care will achieve permanency</p> <p>Strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Children will have timely adoptions. Iowa's performance on adoptions is measured not on the number but on timeliness. If a child cannot be safely returned to the family, the goal is to find a permanent adoptive family within two years of removal.<ul style="list-style-type: none">DHS goal: 54 percent of children adopted timely.DHS performance in SFY15: 57.3 percent placed timely.	<p>Achievement of Timely Adoption for Children</p>  <table><tr><th>Fiscal Year</th><th>Number of Children</th></tr><tr><td>FFY11</td><td>138</td></tr><tr><td>FFY12</td><td>154</td></tr><tr><td>FFY13</td><td>154.5</td></tr><tr><td>FFY14</td><td>149.8</td></tr></table> <p>* National Standard is 106.4.</p>	Fiscal Year	Number of Children	FFY11	138	FFY12	154	FFY13	154.5	FFY14	149.8
	Fiscal Year	Number of Children										
FFY11	138											
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ <i>Iowa ranked first in the nation for timely adoptions in FFY11, FFY12, FFY13, and FFY14.</i>✓ <i>Iowa ranked second in the nation for timely adoptions in FFY09 and FFY10.</i>												
Legal Basis	<p>Federal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Public Law 96-272, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980Public Law 100-294, the Child Abuse Prevention, Adoption, and Family Services Act of 1988Public Law 105-89, the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA)Public Law 109-239, the Safe and Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act of 2006Public law 110-351, the Fostering Connections for Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.Public Law 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014. <p>State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Iowa Code, Chapter 600.17-600.21Iowa Administraive Code, 441 IAC 201											